

Remarks

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed October 25, 2004. A petition requesting a one month extension of time to reply accompanies this amendment. Claims 6 and 12 are withdrawn, claims 16-19 are being added, and claims 1, 8, 13, and 15 are being amended. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-15.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delacollette et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,291,701) in view of Kosarzecki (U.S. Pat. No. 4,531,536) or The Hydraulic Handbook. Delacollette et al. discloses a vehicle having a slide out mechanism. Delacollette et al. makes the broad assertion that the slide out mechanism can be controlled by "means of any system; hydraulic, electrical, mechanical." (See col. 3, lines 41-42 of Delacollette et al.) Moreover, Delacollette et al. diagrammatically shows a hydraulic system for controlling the slide out system, and states that double-acting cylinders are fed through a flow divider to move walls strictly parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle chassis. (See col. 3, lines 42-52 of Delacollette et al.) Delacollette et al., however, does not disclose, or suggest, any further details of how to control the double actuating cylinders.

Independent claims 1 and 8 are being amended to include pilot operated check valves that allow the flow of fluid exhausting from the cylinders past (i.e. through or around) a flow divider when moving the extendible rams in a direction opposite to a first direction. As discussed above, Delacollette et al. discloses feeding the cylinders through a flow divider. However, none of the cited references disclose or suggest a slide out actuating mechanism or method of operation that includes pilot operated check valves that allow the flow of fluid exhausting from the cylinders past a flow divider.

Independent claims 13 and 15 of the present application are being amended to claim a slide out actuating mechanism assembly and method of operation in which the double acting cylinders are fed through a flow divider when moving the extendible rams

in one direction and are not fed through the flow divider when moving the extendible rams in an opposite direction. Fig. 18 of the present application clearly shows a hydraulic circuit in which the double acting cylinders 207, 209 are fed through a flow divider 212 when extending extendible rams 206, 208 from the cylinders 207, 209. However, when retracting the rams 206, 208 into the cylinders 207, 209, the cylinders 207, 209 are not fed through a flow divider. Instead, pilot operated check valves 216 interposed between the cylinders 207, 209 and flow divider 212 are opened to allow fluid exhausting from the cylinders 207, 209 to pass through the flow divider 212 and balance the flow of fluid exhausting from the cylinders 207, 209.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest a slide out actuating assembly and method of operation in which fluid is directed in a reverse direction through a flow divider, as claimed in amended claims 13 and 15, or pilot operated check valves that open to allow exhausting fluid to flow past the flow divider, as claimed in amended claims 1 and 8. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-11, 13, and 14 depend from one of the amended independent claims. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-15 are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-15.

Claims 16-19 are being amended to more clearly claim the invention. In particular, claims 16 and 18 include the limitation of the fluid flowing out of the cylinders through the flow divider, as disclosed in Fig. 18. Claims 17 and 19 include the limitation of fluid flowing out of the cylinders around the flow divider, as disclosed in Fig. 13. Accordingly, claims 16-19 do not contain new matter. Claims 16-19 depend from one of claims 1 and 8 which, as discussed above, are believed allowable. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of claims 16-19 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to claims 1, 8, 13, and 15, Applicant respectfully asserts that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability indicating the allowance of claims 1-19 is respectfully requested. A petition requesting a one month extension of time to reply

Appl'n No. 10/695,268  
Art Unit 3612  
Page 13

accompanies this amendment. No additional fees for filing this response are believed to be due with the exception of the fee required for the extension of time to reply. However, if additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel G. Radler  
Reg. No. 43,028  
Quarles & Brady LLP  
411 East Wisconsin Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202  
Tel. No. (414) 277-5749